First commercial launch of PSLV-C8

3942. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PSLV-C8 rocket is set to make its first commercial launch;

(b) if so, the total value of the launching contract and the number of satellites which are proposed to be launched by PSLV-C8 rocket;

(c) whether the commercial launch is a beginning of our country entering the world space industry and so far which all new launch deals have been signed; and

(d) if so, what would be our share in the world market and the steps which are being initiated to help it for greater penetration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. PSLV-C8 rocket has already successfully launched an Italian scientific satellite called AGILE weighing 352 kg as a primary payload on 23rd April, 2007 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

(b) The total value of the launching contract was 7.38 million euros and the PSLV-C8 mission launched one satellite, namely, AGILE.

(c) Yes, Sir. Agreements have been signed for launching three other foreign satellites.

(d) It is aimed to get about 2% of the world commercial satellite launch market to start with and several steps are being taken to contact potential customers and to create greater awareness among them on the launch opportunities on PSLV.

Achievements made by ISRO

†3943. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Inidan Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has made a place in the space club dominated by big countries;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Indian Space Research Organisation has made any commercial agreement with any foreign company as annual market of space research is worth more than one billion dollars; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made to give pace to the commercial activities of ISRO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Space Research Organisation through its marketing arms Antrix Corporation has made commercial agreements with EADS Astrium of Europe to jointly manufacture and supply two commercial communication satellites to Europe. A contract was made for launching an Italian Satellite 'AGILE', which was successfully launched into space on 23 April, 2007. In addition, agreements have been signed for launching three other foreign satellites. Commercial agreements are also made for marketing data from Indian remote sensing satellites in different parts of the globe including USA, Europe, China, Russia and other countries. In order to give pace to commercial activities of ISRO, the Government is encouraging Antrix Corporation to promote the commercial use of capacity available from space systems built by ISRO after meeting the national needs and also develop alliances for global marketing of Indian Space capabilites.

Reliability, accuracy and adequacy of primary level data collection

3944. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been seized of the concern expressed *inter alia* by the Chairman of national Statistical Commission in a Conference recently, about weaknesses in the reliablity, accuracy and adequacy of primary level data collection and processing leading to erroneous planning and assessment of the socio-economic situations;

(b) if so, the steps taken/being contemplated to address such concern;

(c) whether any assessment of the state of affairs at each State level statistical data collection and analysis machineries with a view to improve